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June 17, 2008

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Advisory office action dated 5/13/07 regarding U.S. patent application number 10/734,601

Dear Sirs:

This letter is responsive to the office action dated 7/19/07 and advisory office action dated 5/13/08 regarding U.S. patent application number 10/734,601.

Included with this response is the form requesting continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the associated fee.

Claim rejections under USC Section 103:

The examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gainey et al. (US Pub. 20040157551) in view of Bassirat (US Patent 6507741). The examiner has made this rejection final.

We submit that it would not be obvious to combine Gainey and Bassirat to accomplish the present invention, because Gainey specifically teaches away from the present invention. Gainey specifies a delay "associated with the repeated transmission that is equal to or greater than the received signal detection time. The delay is not otherwise dependent upon characteristics of the received signal". In the present invention the delay specifically always does depend on other characteristics of the received signal. In specific, in the present invention the delay is dependent on where the received signal is intended to be routed to (or, equivalently, given a particular routing program, the delay is dependent on where the received signal is received from). Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would be taught by Gainey not to use Gainey's invention to accomplish the aims of the present invention.

We have amended claim 15 to include the limitation that the delay is dependent on the routing of the signal, and we submit that claim 15 is now patentable.

Allowed Subject Matter: